

October 7, 2002

Federal Communications Commission
C/o Commission Secretary Marlene Dortch
445 12th Street SW, CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding 02-306

Dear Commissioners:

The Pat Brown Institute, a campus-based center for statewide public policy research and community engagement, has long supported SBC Pac Bell's entry into the long distance market. We urge the Commission's support, as well.

As an institute bearing the name of a legendary California visionary and public servant, let me state upfront that we believe in public power, in corporate responsibility to communities, and in the regulatory role public agencies such as yours are duty bound to oversee on behalf of consumers and competitive business environments.

It is precisely in this regard that I am pleased to indicate to the Commission our support of SBC Pacific Bell's application.

We envision the resulting increased competition in local and long distance markets working strongly on behalf of consumers, beginning with enhanced one-stop shopping possibilities. Knowing that comparative circumstances in states vary, a Consumer Action Survey released last year nevertheless reported favorably for consumers in those states that have opened their long distance markets. We believe that California and other states will join this satisfied list.

The Pat Brown Institute supports good public policy, competitive business markets, and strong corporate citizenship with surrounding communities. We believe this triad becomes reality with the confirmation of SBC Pac Bell's long distance market entry.

Sincerely,

Jaime A. Regalado, Ph.D.
Executive Director